

References

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Reply

Over the past 2 years we have cautiously combined the beta-adrenergic blocking agents and verapamil in selected patients without congestive heart failure or marked left ventricular dysfunction, and we have not observed the shocklike syndrome described by Wayne et al. In our experience, the adverse effects of this drug combination are usually related to their combined negative chronotropic effects, with resultant bradyarrhythmias. Although nifedipine may be preferable in combination with a beta-blocker, serious adverse reactions, including congestive heart failure and profound hypotension, have been reported with a nifedipine-beta-blocker combination (1-4). The safety of a diltiazem-beta-blocker combination is unknown, but we would be concerned about the bradyarrhyth-

mias that might result from such a combination. For selected patients with limiting angina despite therapy with a beta-adrenergic blocker, we believe the cautious addition of a calcium channel blocker is warranted. Further controlled studies are needed to define the relative safety and efficacy of the three available calcium antagonists in combination with a beta-adrenergic blocker.

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